

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 30, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Acting Secretary Norris Cochran
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

President Donald Trump and Acting Secretary Norris Cochran,

The Affordable Care Act has had a devastating impact on the health insurance market in Minnesota. On average, our state has seen premium increases of 59 percent, the fourth highest in the country. To make matters worse, many of the state's counties now have only one insurance option under the exchange. As the January 31st individual market enrollment deadline rapidly approaches, we ask for your immediate assistance in approving an enrollment extension to provide relief for the thousands of Minnesotans who are now forced to decide whether they will purchase health coverage or pay their mortgage.

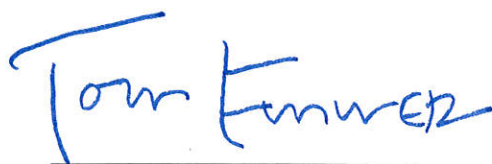
Minnesota has long been a leader in health insurance and was doing well before the Affordable Care Act. Today, we hear from our constituents about the lack of options in the marketplace and the tremendous out of pocket costs that insurance would have covered prior to Obamacare. While the state legislature is aggressively working to develop options that mitigate the prohibitive costs to individuals, many Minnesotans will be left with little to no time to assess their options and sign up for plans that best suit their families. An extension of the current enrollment deadline is imperative to ensuring our constituents have the opportunity to benefit from the relief provided by the state's actions *and* have enough time to evaluate and purchase health insurance for 2017.

Although the state was recently denied an enrollment extension by the Obama Administration, we feel that this request is consistent with your recent executive order aimed at minimizing the economic burden of Obamacare. Extending the enrollment deadline would afford the state additional flexibility, increase individual coverage, and reduce the resulting fiscal burden on Minnesota. While we look forward to the ultimate repeal of Obamacare, we also urge actions to make sure Minnesotans have access to coverage in the interim.

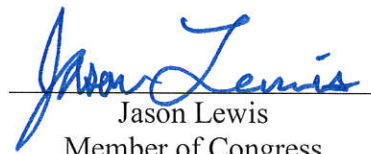
This request has the support of the state's Governor, in addition to the Minnesota House Speaker, Senate Majority Leader, and Chair of the Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee. We appreciate your consideration and hope you will help us provide relief to the many Minnesotans who have been negatively impacted by this flawed law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Jason Lewis
Member of Congress